



Department of Health

Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5097

TTY: 711  
[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

May 26, 2022

Dear Rhode Island Child Care Providers,

We are writing to remind you of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) isolation protocol for those who test positive for COVID-19. Please see the specifics of the protocol below:

- Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, **even if they are vaccinated**, must stay home and isolate for *at least 5 days*.
- They *may* return to child care on day 6, **if they don't have symptoms or their symptoms are improving, and they've been fever-free for 24 hours** (without the use of fever reducing medication).
- **On days 6-10 of their isolation period, they must wear a [well-fitting mask](#)** on the bus, at child care, and at all child-care associated events. They should also wear a mask outside of child care when they are around others, especially when indoors.
- If children and staff are unable to wear a mask in the child care setting, **they *should* isolate at home for the full 10 days following the positive test**. Those who remain home from days 6-10 can then return to child care if their symptoms have improved and they've been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication).
- The CDC recommends an isolation period of at least 10, and up to 20 days, for people who were severely ill with COVID-19 and for people with weakened immune systems.
- **Everyone should follow these isolation protocols, even if they receive a negative test result** (i.e., antigen or PCR) during their 10-day isolation period.

Additionally, **please ensure that all self-test positive test results are reported to the RIDOH at [portal.ri.gov/s/selftest](http://portal.ri.gov/s/selftest)**. This information helps the Department of Health monitor the spread of COVID-19.

For additional information about COVID-19, visit [health.ri.gov/covid](http://health.ri.gov/covid) or call 401-222-8022. You can find this [letter is available online](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. McDonald MPH".

James V. McDonald MD, MPH  
Interim Director of Health  
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